

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) In dental floss, the improvement comprising:
coating or impregnating said dental floss with a colored material to yield a colored dental floss that changes color though removal of said colored material from said colored dental floss when ~~the~~ said colored dental floss is passed between the teeth of a user.
2. (Currently Amended) In dental floss, the improvement comprising:
coating or impregnating said dental floss with a ~~colored~~ color-changing material that changes color in response to changes in pH throughout a pH range of 5.0 to 9.0 when said dental floss is ~~subjected~~ exposed ~~to friction in the presence of saliva.~~
3. (Currently Amended) In dental floss, the improvement comprising:
coating or impregnating said dental floss with ~~a colored material that changes color when said dental floss is subjected to friction in the presence of saliva within an in vivo temperature range~~ an indicator dye comprising at least one of thymol blue or bromthymolphthalein.
4. (Currently Amended) In dental floss, the improvement comprising:
coating or impregnating said dental floss with a ~~colored~~ color-changing material that changes color when said dental floss contacts particular enzymes in a mouth as a result of a chemical reaction between said color-changing material and the particular enzymes.

5. (Currently Amended) In dental floss, the improvement comprising:
coating or impregnating said dental floss with a color-changing material that only
changes color when said dental floss contacts particular enzymes in a mouth within an in
vivo temperature range.
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6. (Currently Amended) In dental floss, the improvement comprising:
coating or impregnating said dental floss with a material that indicates and
specifically identifies the presence of one or more of a virus, disease, infection, bacteria,
or plaque.
7. (Currently Amended) In dental floss comprising nylon or rayon, the improvement
comprising:
directly coating or impregnating said dental floss comprising nylon or rayon with
a medicament or anti-microbial material and winding said coated or impregnated dental
floss onto a spool for storage and later use.
8. (Currently Amended) A dental hygiene material, comprising:
dental floss; and
a coloring material coating said dental floss or impregnated in said dental floss
that changes color when passed between two adjacent teeth so as to remove at least a
portion of the coloring material from the portion of the dental floss passed between
adjacent teeth.
9. (Currently Amended) A dental hygiene material, comprising:
dental floss; and
a ~~coloring~~ color-changing material coating said dental floss or impregnated in said
dental floss that changes color in response to changes in pH throughout a pH range of 5.0
to 9.0 when said dental floss is subjected exposed to ~~friction in the presence of~~ saliva.

10. (Currently Amended) A dental hygiene material, comprising:
dental floss; and

~~a coloring material coating said dental floss or impregnated in said dental floss that changes color when said dental floss is subjected to friction in the presence of saliva within an in vivo temperature range~~ an indicator dye comprising at least one of thymol blue or bromthymolphthalein.

11. (Currently Amended) A dental hygiene material, comprising:
dental floss; and

~~a coloring~~ color-changing material coating said dental floss or impregnated in said dental floss that changes color when said dental floss contacts particular enzymes in a mouth as a result of a chemical reaction between said color-changing material and the particular enzymes.

12. (Currently Amended) A dental hygiene material, comprising:
dental floss; and

~~a coloring~~ color-changing material coating said dental floss or impregnated in said dental floss that only changes color when said dental floss contacts particular enzymes in a mouth within an in vivo temperature range.

13. (Currently Amended) A dental hygiene material, comprising:
dental floss; and

a material coating said dental floss or impregnated in said dental floss that is capable of indicating and specifically identifying the presence of one or more of a virus, disease, infection, bacteria, or plaque.

14. (Currently Amended) A dental hygiene material, comprising:

dental floss comprising nylon or rayon wound onto a spool for storage and later use; and

a medicament or anti-microbial material directly coating said dental floss or impregnated in said dental floss.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying whether dental floss has been passed between the teeth of a user, comprising:

~~coating or impregnating the~~ providing a colored dental floss coated or impregnated with a colored material ~~that changes color when said dental floss is passed between two adjacent teeth of said user; and~~

passing a portion of said colored dental floss between adjacent teeth of the user in order to remove at least some of said colored material from the portion of said dental floss that is passed between the adjacent teeth.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying whether dental floss has been passed between the teeth of a user, comprising:

~~coating or impregnating said~~ providing dental floss coated or impregnated with a ~~colored~~ color-changing material that changes color in response to changes in pH throughout a pH range of 5.0 to 9.0 when said dental floss is ~~subjected~~ exposed to ~~friction in the presence of saliva; and~~

passing a portion of said dental floss between adjacent teeth of the user.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying whether dental floss has been passed between the teeth of a user, comprising:

~~coating or impregnating said~~ providing dental floss coated or impregnated with a ~~colored material that changes color when said dental floss is subjected to friction in the presence of saliva within an in vivo temperature range~~ an indicator dye comprising at least one of thymol blue or bromthymolphthalein; and

passing a portion of said dental floss between adjacent teeth of the user.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying whether dental floss has been passed between the teeth of a user, comprising:

~~coating or impregnating said~~ providing dental floss coated or impregnated with a colored color-changing material that changes color when said dental floss contacts particular enzymes in a mouth as a result of a chemical reaction between said color-changing material and the particular enzymes; and

passing a portion of said dental floss between adjacent teeth of the user.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying whether dental floss has been passed between the teeth of a user, comprising:

~~coating or impregnating said~~ providing dental floss coated or impregnated with a colored color-changing material that only changes color when said dental floss contacts particular enzymes in a mouth within an in vivo temperature range; and

passing a portion of said dental floss between adjacent teeth of the user.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying the presence of virus, disease, infection, bacterial or plaque between the teeth of a user, comprising:

~~coating or impregnating said~~ providing dental floss coated or impregnated with a material that indicates and specifically identifies the presence of one or more of a virus, disease, infection, bacteria, or plaque; and

passing a portion of said dental floss between adjacent teeth of the user.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for administering a medicament or anti-microbial agent between the teeth of a user, comprising:

~~coating or impregnating said~~ providing dental floss that comprises nylon or rayon, that is directly coated or impregnated with a medicament or anti-microbial material, and that has been wound onto a spool after being coated or impregnated with said medicament or anti-microbial material for storage and later use; and

passing a portion of said dental floss between adjacent teeth of the user.

22. (Currently Amended) Dental floss coated or impregnated with a material comprising:

0 to 5% K_2CO_3 , 0 to 5%, Na_2CO_3 , 0-5% glycerol, 30 to 60% H_2O , 30 to 60% ethanol, 0 to 2% flavorings, 0 to 0.5% CHG/CHA, 0 to 0.5% NaF, 0.1 to 3.0% indicator dyes, 10 to 40% soluble polymers, and 0 to 5% Triethanol amine;

wherein the indicator dyes are selected from the group of indicator dyes consisting of thymol blue, bromthymolphthalein and ~~other non-toxic pH indicators as well as~~ specific aerobic and anaerobic bacteria, virus and disease condition indicators, and

wherein the soluble polymers are selected from the group of soluble polymers consisting of cellulose and polyethylene oxide ~~pyrrolidone~~ pyrrolidone.

23. (Currently Amended) A dental floss assembly, comprising:

a housing;

at least one spool of dental floss disposed within said housing; and

a colored or color-changing material coating or impregnated within said dental floss that causes said dental floss to change ~~changes~~ color as a result of at least one of the following:

(i) through removal of said colored or color-changing material when said dental floss is used to floss teeth,

(ii) in response to changes in pH throughout a pH range of 5.0 to 9.0,

(iii) because said colored or color-changing material is an indicator dye comprising at least one of thymol blue or bromthymolphthalein, or

(iv) as a result of a chemical reaction between said colored or color-changing material and particular enzymes found in the mouth of a user.

24. (Original) A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 23:

wherein said dental floss changes color when subjected to friction.

25. (Original) A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 23:
wherein said dental floss changes color when said dental floss is subjected to friction in the presence of saliva.
26. (Original) A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 24:
wherein said dental floss changes color when said dental floss is subjected to friction in the presence of saliva within an in vivo temperature range.
27. (Original) A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 23:
wherein said dental floss changes color when said dental floss contacts particular enzymes.
28. (Original) A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 27:
wherein said dental floss changes color when said dental floss contacts particular enzymes within an in vivo temperature range.
29. (Currently Amended) A dental floss assembly, comprising:
a housing;
at least one spool of dental floss disposed within said housing for storage and later use, said dental floss comprising nylon or rayon; and
a medicament directly coating or impregnating said dental floss.
30. (Original) A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 29:
wherein said medicament comprises an anti-microbial agent.
31. (Original) A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 29:
wherein said medicament comprises sodium fluoride (NaF).
32. (Original) A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 29:
wherein said medicament comprises chlorhexidine digluconate (CHG).

33. (Original) A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 29:
wherein said medicament comprises chlorhexidine acetate (CHA).
34. (Original) A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 29:
wherein said dental floss is scented.
35. (Original) A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 29:
wherein said dental floss is flavored.
36. (Currently Amended) A dental floss assembly, comprising:
a housing;
at least one spool of dental floss disposed within said housing; and
a disease indicating agent coating or impregnating said dental floss that indicates
and specifically identifies the presence of a particular oral disease if present in a user's
mouth.
37. (Original) A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 36:
wherein said disease indicating agent is an oral cancer detecting agent.
38. (Original) A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 36:
wherein said disease indicating agent comprises a plaque indicator.
39. (Original) A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 38:
wherein said plaque indicator comprises fluorescein sodium.
40. (Currently Amended) A dental floss assembly as recited in claim ~~36~~ 38:
wherein said plaque indicator comprises an enzyme detector.
41. (Original) A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 40:
wherein said enzyme detector is used to detect diabetes.

42. (Original) A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 36:
wherein said dental floss is scented.
43. (Original) A dental floss assembly as recited in claim 36:
wherein said dental floss is flavored.
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